

REMARKS

In this response, claims 9, 11, 13, 14, 15, 46, and 47 have been amended. Claims 1-3, 8, 10, 12, 16, 23-24, 30-31, 35-38, 41, and 45 have been previously cancelled. Claims 4-7, 9, 11, 13-15, 17-22, 25-29, 32-34, 39-40, 42-44, and 46-48 remain for consideration in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 9, 13, 14, 46 and 47 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Michelsen (U.S. Patent No. 5,387,824). Applicant traverses this rejection.

Claims 9, 13, 14, 46, and 47 have been amended to more clearly state their subject matter. The Office Action indicated that the terms hard coded and selectable were simply arbitrary names for two signals. This is not the case. Each of the claims as amended clearly recite that one of the signals is a non-volatile signal, whereas the other signal is a variable signal. The two signals are specific, and are clearly identified in the claims as amended. They are not, as the Office Action asserted, two arbitrary signals. Reading the claims in view of the specification, the nature of the two signals in the amended claims is clear. There is no teaching or suggestion in Michelsen of two such different signals, one being changeable and the other being fixed, as is recited in the claims as amended. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 9, 13, 14, 46, and 47 are allowable.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has rewritten claims 11 and 15 in independent form. Applicant thus respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection, and allowance of claims 11 and 15.

Claims 4-7, 17-22, 25-29, 32-34 and 39-44 were allowed.

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 -

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

Serial No. 10/701,090

Title: OUTPUT BUFFER STRENGTH TRIMMING

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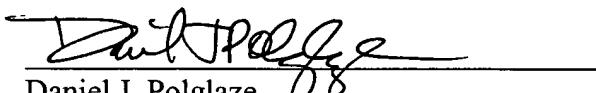
Attorney Docket No. 400.196US01

CONCLUSION

Applicant authorizes a debit of \$400.00 from Deposit Account No. 501373 for additional independent claim fees. If deemed necessary, the U.S. Patent Office is authorized to charge any additional fees found due to our Deposit Account No. 501373. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2203.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 28 Nov. 2005



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